

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: AORG, UN, AU

SUBJ: TRIPARTITE TALKS ON DONAU PARK

REF: VIENNA 6574

1. MFA SECGEN REITBAUER CALLED IN CHARGE AUGUST 11 IN FOLLOW UP TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MINISTRY REPORTED REFTEL. REITBAUER'S MAIN POINT WAS THAT THE GOA WOULD NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO ANY PROPOSAL THAT MIGHT BE MADE FOR TRILATERAL TALKS WITH USG AND SWISS ON DONAU PARK. REITBAUER MOTIVATED GOA POSITION BY SAYING THAT TRIPARTITE TALKS WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT BY COUNTRIES HOSTING UN ORGANIZATIONS TO PRE-JUDGE DECISIONS WHICH PROPERLY BELONGED TO THE UNGA ON THE BASIS OF THE SYG'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND AS SUCH WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNGA. REITBAUER SAID THE GOA DOES NOT HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN PROFESSED SWISS WILLINGNESS TO ARRIVE AT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS, AND THE AUSTRIANS FEARED THAT ENGAGING IN TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD IN EFFECT "GIVE THE SWISS A VETO."

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2. REITBAUER ADDED THAT THE GOA WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO CONTINUE BILATERAL SOUNDINGS WITH THE USG AND THE SWISS AND, AS WE KNEW, DONAU PARKIS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 12-13 AUSTRIAN-SWISS TALKS IN SALZBURG. BEYOND THAT, REITBAUER SAID, THE GOA BELIEVES THAT ISSUE PROPERLY BELONGS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. RETIBAUER THEN MADE A SLIGHT QUALIFICATION OF GOA OPPOSITION TO TRILATERAL TALKS BY SAYING, SOMEWHAT TENTATIVELY, THAT IF THE SECRETARY GENERAL WERE TO TRY TO ARRANGE TRILATERAL TALKS UNDER HIS AEGIS, THIS WOULD PERHAPS BE ANOTHER MATTER.

3. COMMENT: REITBAUER WAS EXTREMELY BEARISH THROUGHOUT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF WORKING OUT ANY ARRANGEMENTS BILATERALLY WITH THE SWISS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT, RATHER THAN GET INTO TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT GIVE THE SWISS ADVANTAGE, THE AUSTRIANS PREFER TO TAKE THEIR CHANCES ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS. WE POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT IF THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT CONCRETE, WE WOULD ALL RUN THE RISK OF A GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVIEW WHICH COULD BRING UNHELPFUL PRESSURE FOR DISPERSAL OF UN ORGANS. REITBAUER HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH THIS PROPOSITION BUT SAID IT DID NOT ALTER THE GOA POSITION OF FIRM OPPOSITION TO TRILATERAL TALKS. REITBAUER PROMISED TO LET US KNOW HOW THE AUGUST 12-13 SALZBURG DISCUSSIONS WENT ON THE DONAU PARK ISSUE.MEEHAN

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